

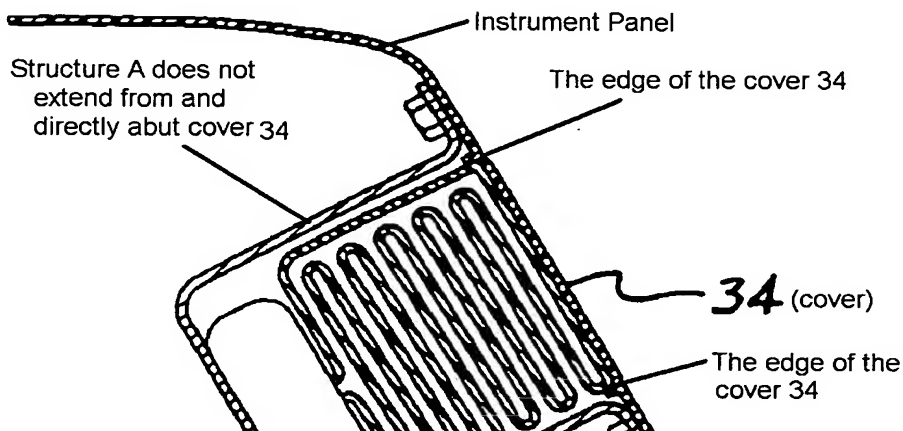
REMARKS

The Office Action has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 1, 20, 21 and 22 are amended. No claims are cancelled or added. Thus, claims 1-22 remain pending and are submitted for reconsideration.

Rejection based on Preisler and Desprez

Claims 1-15 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 7,004,499 ("Preisler") and U.S. Patent 6,595,543 ("Desprez"). The rejection should be withdrawn because Preisler, Desprez, or any combination thereof fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention.

For example, claim 1 (as amended) recites "a frame member extending from and directly abutting the back surface of the plate member." Amended independent claims 20 and 22 include similar features. Preisler does not disclose or suggest this feature. In particular, as seen in the Figure below, the structure A behind the cover 34 (which is labeled in the Office Action as the "plate member") is attached to the structure that is labeled in the Office Action as the "instrument panel," which is beyond the edges of the cover 34. Accordingly, the structure A cannot be considered to be extending from and directly abutting the cover 34.



Thus, Preisler does not teach all the features of claims 1, 20, or 22. Desprez does not cure this deficiency. Thus, claims 1, 20, and 22 are not rendered unpatentable over the prior art and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-15 depend from claim 1, and are allowable therewith for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations contained therein.

Claim 21 (as amended) recites “a frame member directly connected to the back surface of the plate member.” As previously mentioned, Preisler does not teach that the structure A is directly connected to the cover 34. Desprez does not cure this deficiency. Thus, claim 21 is not rendered unpatentable over the prior art and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Favorable reconsideration of the rejection based on Preisler and Desprez is respectfully requested.

Rejection based on Preisler, Desprez, and Suzuki

Claims 1, 6, and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Preisler, Desprez, and U.S. Patent 6,601,870 (“Suzuki”). This rejection should be withdrawn because any combination of Preisler, Desprez, and Suzuki fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed invention. For example, claim 1 (as amended) recites “a frame member extending from and directly abutting the back surface of the plate member.” As previously mentioned, Preisler does not teach that the structure A is directly connected to the cover 34. Desprez and Suzuki do not cure this deficiency. Thus, the teachings of Preisler, Desprez, and Suzuki do not render claim 1 unpatentable over the prior art and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 6 and 13-17 depend from claim 1, and are allowable therewith for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations contained therein.

Favorable reconsideration of the rejection based on Preisler, Desprez, and Suzuki is respectfully requested.

Rejection based on Preisler, Desprez, and Hagen

Claims 1, 6, 13-14, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Preisler, Desprez, and U.S. Patent 5,651,562 (“Hagen”). This rejection should be withdrawn because any combination of Preisler, Desprez, and Hagen fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the claimed invention.

For example, claim 1 (as amended) recites “a frame member extending from and directly abutting the back surface of the plate member.” As previously mentioned, Preisler

does not teach that the structure A is directly connected to the cover 34. Desprez and Hagen do not cure this deficiency. Thus, the teachings of Preisler, Desprez, and Hagen do not render claim 1 unpatentable over the prior art and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 6, 13-14, and 18-19 depend from claim 1, and are allowable therewith for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations contained therein.

Favorable reconsideration of the rejection based on Preisler, Desprez, and Hagen is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

It is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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